



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCOTT PETERS

First District

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Council President Peters Seeks Solutions for Migrant Housing

SAN DIEGO – As Californians pause this week to remember the legacy of Cèsar Chàvez, Council President Scott Peters continued his search for clean and safe housing for farm workers in the Carmel Valley area.

San Diego has applied for a Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant to construct temporary housing for agricultural workers. The grant provides up to \$3 million in construction and development costs. The city is required to match that through the donation of city-owned land for a term of 40 years. The grant is provided by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and is funded by Proposition 46, approved by state voters in 2002.

Council President Peters called the proposal a “win-win” for Carmel Valley and Rancho Peñasquitos. “Moving migrants out of the canyons reduces the risk of wildfire and protects local homeowners, while providing real humanitarian benefits to the workers themselves. Regardless of your views on immigration, these folks are living and working in our community. They deserve safe and clean housing and access to running water and toilet facilities.”

One year into the search for suitable land, the city has yet to find an appropriate site. Officials with the Real Estate Assets Division and a task force of housing and agriculture experts have considered and rejected three sites in Sorrento Valley and Carmel Valley. The land must be close to employment and transit centers, and be free of environmental restrictions. The city is working with Community Housing Works, which develops and operates farm worker housing in North County.

While there are no hard numbers on how many migrants live and work in the area, officials estimate that at least 200 men, primarily from Mexico, live in the canyons between Carmel Valley and Rancho Peñasquitos.

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